

# ARTICLE ALERT

October 2011

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## INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

### [1] America's Pacific Century

**Hillary Clinton**

**Foreign Policy, November 2011**

As the war in Iraq winds down and America begins to withdraw its forces from Afghanistan, the United States stands at a pivot point. Over the last 10 years, we have allocated immense resources to those two theaters. In the next 10 years, we need to be smart and systematic about where we invest time and energy, so that we put ourselves in the best position to sustain our leadership, secure our interests, and advance our values. One of the most important tasks of American statecraft over the next decade will therefore be to lock in a substantially increased investment -- diplomatic, economic, strategic, and otherwise -- in the Asia-Pacific region.

### [2] The South China Sea Is The Future Of Conflict

**Kaplan, Robert**

**Foreign Policy, no. 188, September/October 2011, pp. 76-85**

The crucial difference between the 20th and 21st centuries, notes Kaplan, is that most of the contested areas in the world lay on dry land in Europe. In recent decades, more of the global economic and demographic center of gravity has shifted to Asia, where the spaces between major population centers are predominantly maritime. Kaplan predicts that the Western Pacific will become the world's new center of military contest, and will be primarily naval. Unlike land warfare, which enmeshes civilian populations, naval conflict is a more "clinical and technocratic affair ... returning military affairs to the narrow realm of defense experts." He believes that the U.S. may, over time, have to adjust to the reality of a Chinese deep-water navy; although competition is a given, armed conflict is far from inevitable. If China and the U.S. successfully manage a balance, Asia and the world could become more secure and prosperous.

### [3] Does Obama Have A Grand Strategy? Why We Need Doctrines In Uncertain Times

**Drezner, Daniel**

**Foreign Affairs, Vol. 90, no. 4, July/August 2011, pp. 57-68**

Drezner, Professor of International Politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University, writes that with the U.S. military intervention in Libya, many foreign-policy

observers have bemoaned the supposed lack of a grand strategy within the Obama administration. Despite of what his critics say, Drezner notes that the Obama administration has not had just one grand strategy, but two. The first, which he calls multilateral retrenchment, is designed to restore U.S. standing in the world by curtailing our overseas commitments and relying on global partners to assume part of the burden. The second strategy is “counterpunching” – actions aimed at reassuring allies that the U.S. will respond to rising threats and will not retreat into isolationism. Drezner believes that Obama needs to articulate his grand strategy more clearly, otherwise his critics and opponents will do it for him in less than flattering terms.

**[4] All Over The Map: The Strange New World Of Republican Foreign Policy**  
**Lake, Eli**  
**New Republic, August 18, 2011, pp. 13-17**

The author notes that the foreign-policy consensus within the U.S. Republican Party (GOP) has collapsed. The GOP foreign-policy establishment, traditionally composed of realists, came under attack by the neoconservatives in the 1970s, culminating in the election of the George W. Bush administration, from which many realists, such as Colin Powell and Brent Scowcroft, began distancing themselves. The neoconservatives dominated the party through the 2008 presidential elections, and the candidates then mostly reflected the unilateralist, democracy- and nation-building outlook of the Bush administration. In the last few years, however, new insurgents have emerged in the party, who are less inclined to support democratization and nation-building, and whose international outlook ranges from hawkishness to isolationism. The author writes that the GOP foreign-policy discussion “has imploded entirely, [resulting in a] difficult-to-parse ideological brew of policy disagreements and competing instincts.” Complicating the matter is that most of the candidates are only just beginning to form foreign-policy teams.

**[5] The New Asianism: Japanese Foreign Policy Under The Democratic Party Of Japan**  
**Sneider, Daniel**  
**Asia Policy, no. 12, July 2011, pp. 99-129**

Sneider, Associate Director for Research at the Walter Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center at Stanford University, writes that the Democratic Party of Japan (DPJ) came into power in 2009, ending fifty years of conservative rule, with the aim of rebalancing Japanese foreign policy with a greater focus on Asia. However, DPJ’s first year was marked by tensions – first, over U.S. bases in Okinawa, and then clashes with China over the Senkaku Islands. While the U.S.-Japan security relationship has since been patched back up, Sneider notes that the “new Asianism” — an effort to manage the rise of China — remains at the core of DPJ’s outlook. He warns that relations between Japan and the U.S. could deteriorate, and that the basis for dialogue built up during decades of rule by the Liberal Democratic Party needs to be revitalized to adapt to a new era. Sneider writes that the “new Asianism” of the DPJ should be viewed as an opportunity, since the party’s focus on developing ties with countries as disparate as India, Australia and Vietnam could create a security structure that can cope with the rise of China.

**[6] The All- American  
Traub, James  
New York Times Magazine, July 17, 2011**

The author notes that after Barack Obama won the U.S. presidency in 2008, John Kerry, then the junior senator from Massachusetts, very much wanted to be named secretary of state, a job for which he felt qualified as a senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. However, Obama picked New York senator and former First Lady Hillary Clinton instead. In 2009, Kerry has been able to practice his own brand of diplomacy as chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; he has become a kind of ex-officio member of Obama's national security team, which has dispatched him to conflict zones such as Afghanistan, Pakistan and Sudan. Kerry's willingness to travel anywhere he is needed, and stay as long as necessary, has won him Obama's gratitude.

**[7] Paper Tiger? Chinese Soft Power In East Asia  
Holyk, Gregory G.  
Political Science Quarterly, Summer 2011, pp. 223-254**

Gregory G. Holyk uses survey data to examine the supposed rise of Chinese soft power and parallel decline of U.S. soft power in East Asia. He finds that contrary to conventional wisdom, Chinese soft power is relatively weak, while U.S. soft power remains strong.

**[8] A Military Strategy For The New Space Environment  
Lynn, William J.  
Washington Quarterly, Summer 2011, pp. 7-16**

In less than a generation, space has fundamentally and irrevocably changed. The Deputy Secretary of Defense outlines the National Security Space Strategy, charting how the United States will seek to maintain a strategic advantage despite the more complicated environment.

**ENVIROMENT AND ENERGY**

**[9] The U.S. Soybean King: Can Celebrity Farmer Kip Cullers End World Hunger?  
Ball, Karen  
Time, July 21, 2011**

Kip Cullers barely made it through high school — his words — and never took biology or chemistry. But he's arguably the globe's leading authority on soybean genetics and the precise brew of fertilizer, fungicide, weed killer, water — and yes, a pinch of sugar — required to grow a knockout crop. That makes Cullers a bona fide celebrity soybean farmer, who already holds multiple world records for soybean production. Last fall, he set a new bar by producing 160.6 bushels per acre on his Missouri farm — nearly four times the national average. Perhaps even more telling is that Cullers yields 100 bushels per acre on the 300 commercial acres that he doesn't baby and brood over as he does with his experimental plots. What sets the soybean king apart from other farmers is his willingness to try something new every year. For example, he is

experimenting with a buried drip tape to provide water to his plants, a method that may produce better crops while conserving water. Cullers adds sugar to the water three times a season, to promote microbe activity, which "chews at organic matter down in the soil" and helps increase carbon dioxide levels, he says. But Cullers recognizes that that the man who would like to solve world hunger is also, at day's end, a farmer trying to make a living, and doesn't want to reveal all his secrets.

**[10] Designing The Green Climate Fund: How To Spend \$100 Billion Sensibly**  
**Van Kerkhoff, Lorrae; Ahmad, Imran Habib; Pittock, Jamie; Steffen, Will**  
**Environment, vol. 53, no. 3, May/June 2011, pp. 18-30**

The authors, all with Australian National University, note that it is now widely acknowledged and provisioned under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that industrialized countries must assume a large share of the global emission reduction target adapting to the existing and future consequences of climate change; this will be a greater challenge for developing countries. In recognition of this, in 2009 developed countries proposed a fund of up to \$100 billion per year to help developing countries mitigate and adapt to climate change. Here, Van Kerkhoff and his co-authors discuss how to spend this \$100 billion sensibly in ways that effectively support and enhance efforts to respond to climate change, particularly among the most vulnerable and poorly resourced countries across the globe. The authors examine precedents that offer both positive lessons and warning signs, or mistakes to avoid, such as adapting to freshwater shortages by building power-hungry desalination plants that are not supplied from renewable sources, and draw from these some key recommendations for the development of the Green Climate Fund.

**[11] A Mighty Wind**  
**Galbraith, Kate; Price, Asher**  
**Texas Monthly, August 2011, pp. 104-107, 156-163, 11 pages**

Galbraith and Price discuss the history of the wind power industry in Texas. Despite its reputation as an oil producer, an unlikely alliance in Texas has created the country's largest wind energy industry, greatly surpassing California's wind farms' output. The Texas legislature and federal energy incentives provided the push towards wind energy. The authors note that many of the turbines are made in Europe and China, and that it is likely that the Texas wind power industry has reached its potential. They note that many people now complain about the noise from the turbines and the high-tension power lines on their properties.

**[12] Back To The Future: A RoadMap For Tomorrow's Cities**  
**Kunstler, James Howard**  
**Orion, July-August 2011**

The heyday of suburbia and skyscraper-studded cities as we know them is palpably waning, writes Kunstler. The decreasing availability of fossil fuels and impending climate change ensure the end of energy-intensive city structures, cheap air and motor transport and high-tech farming. According to Kunstler, the future will be smaller-scale neighborhoods and walkable towns clustered around local food and water resources; lucky ones will be linked by railways.

Development without any limitation and a belief in “technomagic” have ironically created “places with no magic, no power to enchant the human spirit,” and despite “technograndiose” ideas about the future, our trajectory, by necessity, is likely a return to a human-sized, textured, localized lifestyle.

## ECONOMICS AND TRADE ISSUES

### **[13] An Exorbitant Burden**

**Pettis, Michael**

**Foreign Policy, posted September 7, 2011**

Michael Pettis, professor of finance at Peking University and senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, argues that keeping the U.S. dollar as the world’s reserve currency imposes significant costs on the U.S. economy. He rejects as false a popular perception that, thanks to its currency’s status, the U.S. enjoys low interest rates and ability to borrow and consume beyond its means. Instead, foreign accumulation of U.S. dollar assets causes the huge U.S. trade deficit, the low level of savings and high levels of private and public debt or makes these three conditions worse, Pettis says. But Washington is reluctant to create rules that would prevent countries from accumulating U.S. dollars for fear that such rules would signal a relative decline in the power of the U.S. economy. Calls for making an IMF basket of currencies – known as the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) – the new global reserve currency are insincere at best, for no country is willing to accumulate SDRs, because of trade constraints. By moving in that direction, a country would be forcing trade deficits (and related currency appreciation) onto the countries whose currencies are included in the SDR, the author concludes.

## POLITICS AND SOCIAL PROCESSES

### **[14] The Rebirth Of Russian Civil Society**

**Nikitin, Vadim**

**The Nation, July 18, 2011**

Although state-controlled TV has kept the public largely in the dark about it, a new wave of civic activism is emerging in Russia. The country’s civil society, often considered a largely irrelevant, politicized and NGO-centric movement, is repositioning itself as a more participatory, nonideological and conspicuously patriotic one. As the state grows increasingly alienated from its people, civic leaders are carving out a small but growing space for online and grassroots protest. The new civil society activists are not interested in ideological grandstanding and deal-making of transactional politics, instead focusing their energies on combating official corruption and out-of-control development. Such pragmatic localism better reflects the worries of ordinary people, who place corruption, abuse of privilege and lack of accountability well above authoritarianism on the list of the country’s biggest problems. Civic activists still face big hurdles, the biggest one being the pervasive cynicism and despondency endemic in Russian society.

**EDUCATION AND INFORMATION****[15] The End Of College Admissions As We Know It****Carey, Kevin.****The Washington Monthly, Washington: Sep/Oct 2011. Vol. 43, Iss. 9/10; p. 22, 9pgs**

The article predicts the transformation of the typical U.S. college admissions to electronic form that would eliminate the problem of under-matching in higher education as initiated by ConnectEDU, a company which sets up a series of Web sites for students, parents and guidance counselors to aid in laying out an educational path for students. ConnectEDU offers information on colleges and universities with strategies for filling out college applications and getting scholarships and financial aid.

**[16] How Google Dominates Us****Gleick, James****New York Review of Books, August 18, 2011**

Is Google evil? That question is essentially at the root of this review of four new books about the Internet phenomenon, whose motto is, famously, "Don't be evil." Steven Levy's *IN THE PLEX* and Douglas Edwards' *I'M FEELING LUCKY*, are accounts by former insiders, while *THE GOOGLIZATION OF EVERYTHING (AND WHY WE SHOULD WORRY)* by Siva Vaidhyanathan and *SEARCH & DESTROY: WHY YOU CAN'T TRUST GOOGLE* by Scott Cleland are outsider critiques that warn, among other things, about the Google's marketing of users as products to advertisers, who employ search data to specifically target potential customers. The reviewer surveys Google's development from the early days, its trajectory to Internet and ad dominance, examining its failures (Google Buzz) and the ethical razor's edge it has walked on various issues, including monopolistic behavior, infringements of privacy and cooperation with oppressive governments such as China. Social media have changed the Web, and Google strives to meet the latest evolution with Google+. Gleick writes, "We need to decide what we want from Google -- if only we can make up our collective minds" which are the source of Google's success. Even if we do, we might not get what we want -- but at least we'll get better search results and tailor-made ads.

**[17] Globally Challenged: Are U.S. Students Ready To Compete?****Peterson, Paul E., Woessmann, Ludger, Hanushek, Eric A., and Lastra-Anadon, Carlos X.****Harvard's Program on Education Policy and Governance, August 2011**

At a time of persistent unemployment, especially among the less skilled, many wonder whether our schools are adequately preparing students for the 21st-century global economy. Despite high unemployment rates, firms are experiencing shortages of educated workers, outsourcing professional-level work to workers abroad, and competing for the limited number of employment visas set aside for highly skilled immigrants. As President Barack Obama said in his 2011 State of the Union address, "We know what it takes to compete for the jobs and industries of our time. We need to out-innovate, out-educate, and out-build the rest of the world."

**U.S. SOCIETY AND VALUES****[17] How To Land Your Kid In Therapy****Gottlieb, Lori****Atlantic Monthly, July/August 2011**

Is it possible for parents to do too much for their children? Yes, says therapist and mother Lori Gottlieb. It is possible that parents, by trying to protect their children from unhappiness, deprive them of happiness as adults. Overprotected children grow into adults who think something must be terribly wrong when they experience the normal frustrations of life. Kids need exposure to discomfort, failure, and struggle to learn how to be resilient and persevere -- qualities that lead to life fulfillment and success. And despite the spate of articles in recent years exploring why so many people in their 20s seem reluctant to grow up, the problem may be less that kids are refusing to separate and individuate than that their parents are resisting doing so. With families having fewer children and society offering less of a close-knit community, it may be that parents cling too closely to their children for companionship.

**[18] WORDS OF AMERICA: A FIELD GUIDE****Adams, Michael****Humanities, Washington: September/October 2011: Volume 32, Number 5**

The American story is told in American words, the words in journalism, novels, poems, films, diaries, letters, everyday conversation, tweets, and the back-porch tales one generation tells another. Each American word has its own story too, and America has great storytelling dictionaries, historical dictionaries filled with chronologically organized quotations to illustrate the forms, meanings, and uses of American speech. These dictionaries are informative and readable: Anyone with the time and interest can sit for hours in an easy chair and browse American culture word by word. One such dictionary, the Dictionary of American Regional English, covers regional and local speech for the whole United States: It is the treasure-house for the all-American word hoard.

**[19] The Wine Whisperers****Coffey, Rebecca****Discover, September 2011**

Several top California winemakers are interviewed about the science behind terroir, the natural ecosystem that affects the character of the grape, and the chemistry of making fine wines. There is a spectrum of approaches, from fully natural, where only local yeasts and bacteria are used to ferment the wine in casks of organic materials, to those in the middle, which enhance nature with carefully selected commercial yeasts and microbes, to those who supervise wine factories employing "trade-secret chemicals" that produce predictable, drinkable, if somewhat boring wines. Most of the winemakers featured credit the importance of terroir, but fall into the middle category, combining nature's gifts with their own artistry.

**[20] The Transformation Of American Community****Dunkelman, Marc.****National Affairs, Number 8, Summer 2011**

Of late, a certain pessimism has come to dominate the American mood. Many of us — of all ages, classes, races, and political persuasions — think our country is headed in the wrong direction. Our great temptation is to blame politicians, on the theory that Washington is failing a nation in search of answers. But is it possible that we have put the cart before the horse? Could it be that the nation has changed, and Washington is simply struggling to adapt?

**ARTS AND LITERATURE****[21] The Visions Of Ann Beattie****O'Rourke, Meghan****New York Review of Books, July 14, 2011**

The development of fiction writer Ann Beattie's work from the 1970s to the present is assessed in this review of a new collection of her stories, *The New Yorker Stories*, and a range of other books by the author. Although her writing has been called "minimalist" and compared to that of Raymond Carver, her focus is on creating mood rather than building to sharp emotional resolutions. Her stylistic evolution has moved with the times of her generation. The "non-emotive coolness" of her writing notwithstanding, she evokes a wry, absurd view of the world and questions the pretenses we use to evade reality and mask our failures to communicate.

**[22] Up In The Air: Technology And The Suburban Nightmare In John Dos Passos's Airways Inc.****Fahy, Thomas****The Journal of American Culture, Maldon: June 2011. Vol. 34, Iss. 2; p. 124, 17pgs**

Dos Passos spent much of his childhood in hotel rooms. His mother, the mistress of a prominent attorney, traveled extensively throughout Europe and America with her son, and he grew accustomed to long journeys by steamship and rail. The sights and sounds of a crowded city block, hotel lobby, bustling wharf, and busy thoroughfare signaled home for Dos Passos. This type of landscape not only characterizes much of his fiction, but it also helps explain some of his interest in the theater, which provides a literal space for recreating these dynamics. As a teenager at the Choate boarding school in Connecticut, he participated actively in drama, often playing the lead in school productions.<sup>2</sup> These experiences inspired a life-long passion for the theater, and a few years later he decided to write plays "to attract, move, and mould an audience" for social change.